There are estimated to be 10 million possums in Northland - that's 72 possums for every person in the region! Some experts think there might be up to 15 million possums in the region.

Northland possums eat nearly three tonnes of leaves, twigs and berries every night. They tend to target new shoots and systematically destroy forest canopies. In combination with deer and goats, they can eventually decimate tall forests. Rata, kamahi and tawa are especially vulnerable, as well as pohutukawa on the coast.